

4F (SEQ ID NO:26) or a degenerate variant thereof; and the contiguous sequence of nucleotides depicted in Figure 4G (SEQ ID NO:27) or a degenerate variant thereof; and a second nucleotide sequence encoding a second polypeptide that is a binding portion of a  $\kappa$  light chain variable region ( $V_L$ ) of said human Fab molecule where said light chain variable region exhibits immunological binding affinity for a hepatitis C virus (HCV) E2 antigen, and wherein the second nucleotide sequence is selected from the group consisting of the contiguous sequence of nucleotides depicted in Figure 3A (SEQ ID NO:15) or a degenerate variant thereof; the contiguous sequence of nucleotides depicted in Figure 3B (SEQ ID NO:16) or a degenerate variant thereof; the contiguous sequence of nucleotides depicted in Figure 3C (SEQ ID NO:17) or a degenerate variant thereof; the contiguous sequence of nucleotides depicted in Figure 3D (SEQ ID NO:18) or a degenerate variant thereof; the contiguous sequence of nucleotides depicted in Figure 3E (SEQ ID NO:19) or a degenerate variant thereof; the contiguous sequence of nucleotides depicted in Figure 3F (SEQ ID NO:20) or a degenerate variant thereof; and the contiguous sequence of nucleotides depicted in Figure 3G (SEQ ID NO:21) or a degenerate variant thereof, and wherein said Fab molecules have binding affinity greater than  $1 \times 10^7 M^{-1}$  for HCV E2.

48. (Three times amended) An isolated nucleic acid molecule, comprising a first nucleotide sequence encoding a binding portion of a  $\gamma 1$  heavy chain variable region ( $V_H$ ) of a human Fab molecule obtained from a combinatorial library, wherein said Fab molecule exhibits immunological binding affinity greater than  $1 \times 10^7 M^{-1}$  for a hepatitis C virus (HCV) E2 antigen and further wherein the first nucleotide sequence is selected from the group consisting of the contiguous sequence of nucleotides depicted in Figure 4A (SEQ ID NO:22) or a degenerate variant thereof; the contiguous sequence of nucleotides depicted in Figure 4B (SEQ ID NO:23) or a degenerate variant thereof; the contiguous sequence of nucleotides depicted in Figure 4C (SEQ ID NO:24) or a degenerate variant thereof; the contiguous sequence of nucleotides depicted in Figure 4D (SEQ ID NO:25) or a degenerate variant thereof; the contiguous sequence of nucleotides depicted in Figure 4E (SEQ ID NO:19) or a degenerate variant thereof; the contiguous

sequence of nucleotides depicted in Figure 4F (SEQ ID NO:26) or a degenerate variant thereof; and the contiguous sequence of nucleotides depicted in Figure 4G (SEQ ID NO:27) or a degenerate variant thereof.

56. (Three times amended) An isolated nucleic acid molecule, comprising a first nucleotide sequence encoding a binding portion of a  $\kappa$  light chain variable region ( $V_L$ ) of a human Fab molecule obtained from a combinatorial library, wherein said Fab molecule exhibits immunological binding affinity greater than  $1 \times 10^7 M^{-1}$  for a hepatitis C virus (HCV) E2 antigen and further wherein the first nucleotide sequence is selected from the group consisting of the contiguous sequence of nucleotides depicted in Figure 3A (SEQ ID NO:15) or a degenerate variant thereof; the contiguous sequence of nucleotides depicted in Figure 3B (SEQ ID NO:16) or a degenerate variant thereof; the contiguous sequence of nucleotides depicted in Figure 3C (SEQ ID NO:17) or a degenerate variant thereof; the contiguous sequence of nucleotides depicted in Figure 3D (SEQ ID NO:18) or a degenerate variant thereof; the contiguous sequence of nucleotides depicted in Figure 3E (SEQ ID NO:19) or a degenerate variant thereof; the contiguous sequence of nucleotides depicted in Figure 3F (SEQ ID NO:20) or a degenerate variant thereof; and the contiguous sequence of nucleotides depicted in Figure 3G (SEQ ID NO:21) or a degenerate variant thereof.

Attached hereto is a marked-up version of the changes made to the specification and claims by the current amendment. The attached page is captioned "Version with markings to show changes made."